

4- SEP 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director/Intelligence

THROUGH: Assistant Director, Research and Reports

SUBJECT: Trip Report of [REDACTED] 25X1A9a

I. Purpose of Trip

A. To attend the XVIIIth International Geographical Congress held at Rio de Janeiro, 9-18 August 1956 for the purpose of exploiting the Soviet and Satellite (Polish and Czech) delegations and exhibits with regard to USSR and Satellite geographic research.

B. To obtain through direct conversation with Soviet and Satellite delegates answers to prepared geographic and mapping intelligence requirements.

C. To evaluate the professional competence of the Soviet and Satellite delegates on the basis of discussions and their manner of presenting papers.

D. To gather biographical information on the USSR and Satellite delegates.

E. To engage in direct conversation with the USSR and Satellite delegates for the purpose of ascertaining their feeling concerning the exchange of geographic and mapping materials.

F. To evaluate the adequacy of the present procurement program with regard to available materials, and those published but classified or otherwise restricted in their distribution.

II. Activities and Findings

The major part of the time was spent in attending sessions at which various papers were read (particularly USSR and Satellite) and discussions took place. While exceptionally dull papers were being presented or papers in a foreign language not understood by me, individuals or a group of USSR or Satellite delegates were sought out and casually met in the lounge or outdoors for conversation or discussion, and tea or coffee. Gifts of geographic materials were also obtained in this manner. The exhibits and several receptions also provided excellent opportunities for conversations and discussions. (A more detailed account on findings will be found in the answers to requirements and biographic data).

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III. Problems or Difficulties

No significant problems or difficulties were encountered.

IV. Commitments

No commitments were made; however, the USSR, Polish, and Czech delegations said they would be happy to honor any request for materials I might send them.

V. Recommendations

A. It is highly recommended that future opportunities for attendance at professional international congresses and meetings (in which USSR and Satellite members participate) be fully exploited. Attendance by Agency representatives with substantive knowledge and where possible language fluency could have very beneficial results.

B. It is further recommended that participation be established on somewhat of a regular basis so that ample preparation can be made in advance in order to insure maximum results.

C. Maintenance of professional standing in special fields should be both encouraged and facilitated within the DDI. Where an individual is known in his field of specialty before entering the Agency, a circumspect continuation of this standing and participation could serve as entree to a continuing fruitful source of information.

D. Individuals with some status within their respective fields who are likely to participate in such congresses should be provided with a permanent professional address, calling cards with academic title and other acceptable props. These things are of importance in foreign circles.

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Chief, USSR Branch

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